

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

New claims 24-25 are added herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 11-25 are currently pending. Of these, claim 5 is allowed, and claims 17-19 and 23 are "objected to".

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-16 AND 20-22 UNDER 35 USC 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY YAGASAKI (US PATENT NO. 5,428,396)

Claim 11 recites decoding means for decoding the motion vector of the target block by using a result of the prediction made by said predicting means with a decoding method determined based on a result of a determination made by said determining means.

Yagasaki does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Yagasaki is directed to reducing the size of a reference table. See, for example, column 19, lines 8-9, of Yagasaki. To achieve this objective, Yagasaki uses a "fold-back" method as shown in Table 5 of Yagasaki and described in column 19, line 3, through column 21, line 3, of Yagasaki.

Table 5 in Yagasaki represents only one decoding method. For example, in Table 5 of Yagasaki, the code "0000 1010" corresponds to the value "5". However, to reduce the size of the reference table, the code "0000 1010" in Table 5 also corresponds to the value "-27". Therefore, Table 5 uses the same code to correspond to two different values. Yagasaki uses the motion vector value for the preceding block to determine which value, for example, "5" or "-27", is the proper value. See, for example, column 19, line 64, through column 20, line 6, of Yagasaki.

Therefore, Yagasaki always uses the same decoding method for decoding. Yagasaki does not determine a decoding method based on a result of a determination made by a determining means as recited, for example, in claim 11.

As an example, with various embodiments of the present invention, based on a result of a determination made by a determining means, a decoding method might be determined which, for example, uses a specific code corresponding to the value "5". However, based on a different result of a determination made by a determining means, a decoding method might be determined which, for example, uses a different specific code corresponding to the value "5". For example, in FIG. 11 of the present application, "variable length codes 1" uses the code "0000010010" corresponding to the value "5", whereas "variable length codes 2" uses the code ""101000" corresponding to the value "5". This operation is significantly different than Yagasaki, where the same code (e.g., "0000 1010" in Table 5 of Yagasaki) is always used for the value "5".

Please note that the claimed invention is not intended to be limited in any way to the example described herein.

Therefore, Yagasaki does not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited, for example, in claim 11.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 11. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited reference.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

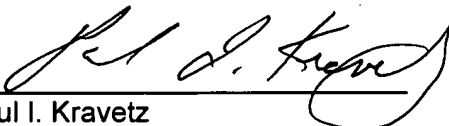
Respectfully submitted,

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